

FROM

STATE SENATOR

SAM AANESTAD

4TH SENATE DISTRICT

Northern California



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SENATE BILL 1670

Senator Aanestad Brings X-Ray Technicians Into the Digital Age

Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed important health legislation authored by Senator Sam Aanestad (R-Grass Valley) that will allow hundreds of x-ray technicians to join the digital age SB 1670 authorizes technicians to operate digital radiography equipment in non-acute care settings. Current law had limited the use of this new and effective technology. SB 1670 was sponsored by the California Orthopaedic Association.

The Problem

The State of California and numerous medical boards and commissions have not kept up with recent technological advances in the digital x-ray field. The law that governs this type of procedure was written in 1970, long before the age of digital equipment and desktop personal computers.

The Solution

SB 1670 authorizes x-ray technicians who meet newly prescribed education requirements to use the new digital technology in non-acute care settings. The legislation also requires that x-ray technicians receive additional educational training in radiation protection and safety before they are authorized to operate the new equipment.

“This equipment represents an enormous advancement in technology and offers many advantages to patients. We must keep up with recent advances in the medical field to offer patients the best care possible.”

Senator Sam Aanestad

Diagnosing Disease

X-ray technicians are trained to produce and develop radiographs, or

Bureaucratic Inefficiency

The California Department of Health Services Radiologic Health Branch has regular oversight for the permit and use of radiological equipment in California, through the Radiologic Technology Certification Committee (RTCC). While guidelines imposed by the RTCC allow x-ray technicians to use plain film equipment, those same guidelines prevented certain technicians from using the newer and more comprehensive digital technology. Digital equipment, however, is now used in most medical settings.

x-rays, to help physicians and dentists treat their patients effectively. These technicians can perform basic and complex examinations using sophisticated computerized equipment. The results of their work are examined closely by radiologists, physicians, and dentists, who look for abnormalities which could detect disease or injury.

New Technology Serves Patients

Senator Aanestad gained the trust and confidence of his legislative colleagues with assurances that his legislation does not expand the scope or practice of x-ray technicians. It merely enables them to take additional training to operate a different type of machine.

For more information, visit:
<http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4>